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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/698,771	
	Filing Date	10/31/2003	
	First Named Inventor	Bartlett	
	Art Unit	3671	
	Examiner Name	Thomas A. Beach	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	FMCE-P103

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bartlett)

Serial No.: 10/698,771)

Filed: 10/31/2003)

For: Vacuum Assisted Seal Engagement)
for ROV Deployed Equipment)

Group Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: T. Beach

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Response to Final Office Action

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated June 20, 2007.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 14, 16-20, 27, 34-38 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blair et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,417).

In his Amendment of March 19, 2007, applicant argued that independent claims 1, 14 and 32 are not anticipated by Blair because Blair does not disclose creating a pressure within the bore of the second component which is less than ambient pressure so that the resulting pressure differential will move the depending portion of the first component into the bore. In response to this argument, the Examiner asserts that "the claim language does not preclude the